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# NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE PROGRESS REPORT

FIRST QUARTER FY 2005, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2004

## **January 2005**

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**and**

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## **ACRONYMS**

BIOFOR	Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry
EGAT	Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade Bureau
FY	fiscal year
GIS	geographic information systems
NRIC	Natural Resources Information Clearinghouse
NRM	natural resources management
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development

## SUMMARY

This document serves as the Natural Resources Information Clearinghouse's (NRIC) progress report for the ninth quarter of operation (October through December 2004). Following this summary of accomplishments, the report presents a narrative discussion of the project's accomplishments and the quarterly financial report.

Key accomplishments in this reporting period included: 1) the Office of Natural Resource Management's (NRM) contribution to USAID's FY 2004 Annual Report was compiled and submitted; 2) the Water for the Poor FY 2004 report for the Online Presidential Initiative Network was completed; 3) the Opportunities Assessment for Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Amazon Basin was written, revised, and submitted; 4) the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Portfolio in Geospatial Data was researched and a draft report written; 5) a report on USAID's Portfolio in Sustainable Tourism was written and a draft was submitted to USAID.

Other accomplishments included:

### Reports, publications, and research

- Compiled information and outlines for USAID's annual report and disseminated to NRM teams, and helped complete and submit the NRM contribution to the report
- Compiled and submitted data for USAID's Performance and Accountability Report
- Prepared data on parameters for USAID's strategic budget planning in water, in the context of the water supply and sanitation earmark and Millennium Development Goals
- Developed an inventory of land tenure resources, including web, agency, and bibliographic information, and formatted a supplemental land tenure bibliography
- Contributed to the preparation of the Women in Leadership Development Case Studies in Mainstreaming Gender and Demographics in integrated coastal management
- Developed content and format for e-flyers to Missions on water procurement mechanisms

### Web

- For [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov), modified two Biodiversity module headers and corresponding HTML files per a request from USAID's Legislative and Public Affairs Department; posted PDF version of Section 508-compliant Biodiversity Conservation FY 2003 Report; submitted 10 new and updated Sustainable Forestry Products Global Alliance pages and three associated modules; produced and submitted 12 new Tropical Forest Conservation Act pages and six associated modules
- For Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) Intranet, updated Land Team and Biodiversity Team staff directories
- On [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net), produced two new pages and updated others for the joint-sponsored Poverty Reduction and Natural Resources Management seminar series

### Build Information Resources

- Added seven project records and 234 documents to the NRM databases
- Developed for the NRM Office a database of geographic information systems (GIS) use for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asian and the Near East, and Europe and Eurasia

## **Planning**

- Submitted three drafts and a final report on an opportunities assessment for a regional conservation strategy in the Amazon Basin, which included USAID's and other donors' conservation activities in the region through visits to select Missions and partners.
- Provided support in the development of common USAID indicators for environment and related program components

## **Conference, training, and communications support**

- Completed research and writing of paper on USAID's work in sustainable tourism.
- Drafted material for USAID's Administrator, the EGAT Deputy Administrator, and Development Communication and Sustainable Tourism Specialist for presentations at the World Tourism Organization conference.
- Provided support to the joint Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction seminar series, including overseeing seminar videotaping.

## **Additions to the Work Plan**

The following activities were completed this quarter but not specifically planned for in NRIC's FY 2005 Work Plan:

- Assisted with materials and online library demonstration for Agriculture/NRM Training
- Designed and produced biodiversity postcard for Biodiversity Team
- Provided input for USAID Administrator's and USAID/EGAT Deputy Assistant Administrator's addresses at the World Tourism Organization conference

## **Next quarter**

In the second quarter of FY 2005, NRIC will focus on nine major activities:

- Begin preparation of Section 118 and 119 reports
- Draft Water Obligations Report to Congress
- Update text and photos on NRM web pages developed for [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)
- Update information about the Water Team on EGAT's Intranet
- Create design/input mockup of Users Guide info into Office of Environment Science Policy's template for EGAT's Webmaster
- Design web pages for NRM cross-sector topics, including sustainable tourism and GIS
- Develop training modules for transmission of Sustainable Tourism information to Missions and Field Offices
- Continued assistance with planning and implementation of NRM/Poverty Reduction seminar series, continued updates to seminar website
- Assist with organization and implementation of MET award activity addressing the impacts of protected areas on indigenous peoples

## **TASK 1. RESEARCH, WRITE, AND PRODUCE REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

*Under Task 1 NRIC assists the NRM Office and teams with research, writing reports, case studies and other informative documents and production of these materials.*

This quarter, NRIC helped the Water Team complete its FY 2004 end of year reporting on the Water for the Poor Initiative for the Online Presidential Initiative Network (OPIN). This entailed surveying 100 operating units in USAID and compiling information from 77 respondents. In addition, the data from the FY 2004 report were used to prepare the FY 2005 obligations toward the \$100 million Drinking Water Earmark.

NRIC also helped the NRM Office with four cross-sector activities: sustainable tourism, regional conservation in the Amazon Basin, a poverty reduction and natural resources management seminar series, and USAID's use of geospatial data and GIS. The sustainable tourism and Amazon Basin conservation activities included reports submitted to USAID. Details about these activities are provided in Task 5: Planning (Amazon Basin) and Task 6: Assistance with Conferences, Training, and Communication (sustainable tourism, poverty reduction seminars).

For the GIS activity, NRIC researched and prepared a draft report about USAID's capture, use, and archival of geospatial data and GIS. The research included a review of U.S. regulations, USAID project activities, and other documents. In addition, NRIC worked with the NRM Office to survey more than 100 Missions about their use of GIS and compiled results of the questionnaire to include in the report.

Other NRIC research and reporting accomplishments in the first quarter included the following:

- Compiled information and outlines for USAID's annual report and disseminated to NRM teams, and helped to complete and submit the NRM contribution to the report
- Compiled and submitted data for USAID's Performance and Accountability Report
- Prepared data on parameters for USAID's strategic budget planning in water, in the context of the water supply and sanitation earmark and Millennium Development Goals
- Provided support in the development of common USAID indicators for environment and related program components
- Developed an inventory of land tenure resources, including web, agency, and bibliographic information, and formatted a supplemental land tenure bibliography
- Prepared final submission of USAID data on freshwater programs for the General Accounting Office Report, Part II
- Verified results data from Egypt water programs
- Contributed to the preparation of the Women in Leadership Development Case Studies on Mainstreaming Gender and Demographics in integrated coastal management
- Updated G-8 Fact Sheet on Water for USAID's Policy and Program Coordination and the National Security Council
- Developed content and format for e-flyers to Missions on water procurement mechanisms
- Developed new water brochure
- Prepared FY 2005 budget and water presentation for the Water Team

## **TASK 2. COLLECT AND MANAGE INFORMATION FOR THE NRM OFFICE AND TEAMS**

*Under Task 2 NRIC collects data on NRM-related activities and expenditures Agency-wide, tracks field support provided by the NRM Office, and provides analysis and reporting based on these data.*

NRIC technical specialists tracked the Water Teams' member activities, including support provided to Missions and other Bureaus within USAID, conferences attended, and other important accomplishments.

NRIC updated Water Team field support tracking and submitted the data to USAID's Office of Program Analysis, Implementation, Communications, and Outreach. NRIC also collected data for the Online Presidential Initiative Network and submitted a summary for USAID and Department of State joint meetings.

## **TASK 3. DESIGN, PRODUCE, AND MAINTAIN WEB SITES**

*Under Task 3 NRIC designs, produces, and maintain web pages for the NRM Office and teams.*

In the first quarter, NRIC continued to support the NRM Office's Web presence via EGAT's internal site and public sites at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) and [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net).

For the EGAT Intranet, NRIC worked with the Water Team to update all water mechanism pages of the Users' Directory.

On USAID's public site [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov), the following pages and modules were developed, updated, and posted:

- Two Biodiversity module headers and corresponding HTML files
- Web-accessible PDF version of Biodiversity Conservation FY 2003 report to Congress
- 10 new SFPGA pages and three associated modules
- 12 new TFCA pages and six associated modules

This quarter, the poverty seminar pages on [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net) were expanded to include two new pages ("Speaker Biosketches" and "Presentations"), as well as a Namibia Case Study. At present, a total of 13 pages have been written, approved by both EGAT offices, and posted. Information concerning a change of the seminar location and additions to the reading list were incorporated into the site as well.

Finally, NRIC's Webmaster attended the Interagency Disability Educational Awareness Showcase 2004 Conference in Washington, D.C. to learn about the latest technologies and issues concerning Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.



## **TASK 4. ACQUIRE, ORGANIZE, AND ARCHIVE INFORMATION RESOURCES**

*Under Task 4 NRIC is compiling information about USAID natural resources projects and related cross-sector activities, and helping to distribute the information, lessons learned and tools over the Internet, in workshops and as training materials.*

This quarter, NRIC reviewed project information for many countries in Asia and the Near East (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Morocco, Nepal, Pacific Islands, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and West Bank and Gaza), Latin America and the Caribbean (Central America, the Caribbean, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Paraguay) and Europe and Eurasia.

The projects component of the database was increased by seven projects, which brings the total number of projects in the database to 495. Moreover, 234 documents were added to the NRIC library, bringing the total holdings to 3,257 documents. The images component of the database remains at 378 images.

In addition, NRIC:

- Attended EGAT Knowledge-Sharing Seminars: Microenterprise and NRM Knowledge Management and After Action Reviews
- Reported on the public availability of documentation for the Rural and Agricultural Incomes with a Sustainable Environment Indefinite Quantity Contract and Global Conservation Program contracts
- Demonstrated the NRM online library at USAID's Agriculture/Natural Resources Management training
- For the NRM Office's GIS portfolio assessment activity, developed a database of GIS use for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Near East, and Europe and Eurasia

## **TASK 5. PLANNING**

*Under Task 5 NRIC supports planning meetings and activities within the NRM Office and teams.*

This quarter, NRIC completed its assistance to the NRM Office's Biodiversity Team and the Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau with submission of an opportunities assessment report to USAID. The document will help USAID write its "Amazon Conservation Strategy." Activities this quarter that contributed to the final report included meetings with USAID's Mission in Brazil and interviews with stakeholders. The NRIC team attended thematic meetings to discuss indigenous peoples, protected areas, and forestry. In addition to the final report, three drafts were submitted to USAID this quarter for review and comment.

In addition, NRIC helped coordinate development of water and other indicators for the new NRM Office Strategic Framework.

## **TASK 6. ASSISTING WITH CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

*Under Task 6 NRIC prepares materials and provides logistic support for conferences, meetings, workshops and training activities, and supports communications and outreach needs of the NRM Office and teams.*

During this reporting period, the sustainable tourism initiative continued with research and reporting on USAID's work in sustainable tourism, culminating in a draft concept paper that includes profiles of key projects. NRIC helped draft presentations for USAID's Administrator and the EGAT Deputy Administrator for their presentations at the World Tourism Organization Tourism Policy Forum, and assisted with preparation of case study presentations.

NRIC provided assistance to the joint NRM Office/Office of Poverty Reduction seminar series on poverty reduction and natural resources management. Support included seminar logistics, correspondence, and coordination with speakers, preparation of materials for seminars and posting to web site, and day-of-event coordination. NRIC is also videotaping the series for input to a final training video. The web pages are hosted on [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net).

NRIC also helped the NRM Office and Teams through the following activities:

- Coordinated delivery of written materials and assembled display materials for the December U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Florida
- Designed and produced Biodiversity postcard for the Biodiversity Team to be used at a conference in Bangkok, Thailand and elsewhere
- Attended Global Conservation Program meeting and prepared notes
- Provided materials for Agriculture/NRM Training: NRM Office and funding mechanisms information, charts & maps, reproducing Forestry Lessons Learned CD-ROMs, demonstration of NRM online library on [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net) at the training
- Delivered remaining FY 2003 Sec. 119: Biodiversity Conservation Reports to the Biodiversity Team for USAID's Legislative and Public Affairs Department's dissemination to Congress

## **TASK 7. NRIC PROJECT PLANNING, MONITORING, AND REPORTING**

This report details the NRIC products and activities for last quarter, October – December 2004, and briefly outlines the work plan for the current quarter. See the section "Changes to the NRIC Annual Work Plan" for specific changes to the NRIC work plan.

The NRIC Director and technical specialists continued to participate in the regularly scheduled meetings of the NRM Office and Teams.

## **CHANGES TO NRIC AND THE NRIC ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

This section identifies changes made to the NRIC Annual Work Plan during the previous quarter, discusses reasons for these changes and impacts on operations.

In the first quarter FY 2005, NRIC's Biodiversity and Forestry Specialist accepted a position elsewhere and resigned from NRIC. This quarter, the Chemonics BIOFOR consortium worked with the Biodiversity and Forestry Teams to recruit and hire an appropriate candidate who will begin work with the project in the second quarter.

NRIC used 464.96 days of level-of-effort in short-term technical assistance (122.72 for junior-level assistance, 163.46 for mid-level, and 178.78 for senior-level) for collecting and accessioning baseline data on NRM projects and tourism-specific data for the online databases, and for work related to four activities: assessment of USAID's GIS & geospatial portfolio; assessment of opportunities for USAID conservation programs in the Amazon Basin; assessment of USAID's tourism portfolio and provision of tools to support tourism projects; and support a series of seminars on the links between poverty reduction and NRM.

This quarter, NRIC performed additional tasks not included in its work plan, including:

- Drafted presentations for USAID's Administrator and the EGAT Deputy Administrator for their presentations at the World Tourism Organization conference
- Assisted with materials and online library demonstration for Agriculture/NRM training
- Designed Biodiversity postcard

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

This information has been deliberately omitted from this version.